

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 364

By Cepicky

A RESOLUTION to honor the James Madison Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution upon its dedication ceremony to mark the graves of Revolutionary War veterans buried at Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those outstanding civic organizations and their members who work with purpose, commitment, and enthusiasm to preserve this State's panoramic history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy organization is the James Madison Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (TSSAR), which is holding a dedication ceremony on June 5, 2021, to appropriately mark the graves of five Revolutionary War veterans who are buried at Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Maury County; and

WHEREAS, these five Revolutionary War veterans are James Armstrong, Robert Frierson, William Linn, Major John Macon, and David Matthews; and

WHEREAS, Zion Presbyterian Church was established in 1807 by eleven Scots-Irish families who had moved from South Carolina to Maury County; and

WHEREAS, these families had purchased 5,120 acres at the price of three dollars per acre from the heirs of Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene, who had been given a 25,000-acre land grant; and

WHEREAS, the original log church building that housed Zion was replaced in 1813 with a brick structure, and the Greek Revival building that currently serves as the church's home was completed in 1849; and

WHEREAS, located on fourteen acres in approximately the center of these 5,120 acres, Zion Presbyterian has been a continuous, active congregation since 1807, and the current church building has been included on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend James White Stevenson, a Revolutionary War patriot, founded a community school at Zion in 1839, and one of his pupils there was the future eleventh President of the United States, James K. Polk; while teaching at a North Carolina school, the Reverend Stevenson had numbered Andrew Jackson, the future seventh President of the United States, among his students; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately twelve Revolutionary War soldiers buried on the historic and sacred grounds of Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the members of the James Madison Chapter of the TSSAR are to be greatly commended for appropriately marking the graves of "our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men"; and

WHEREAS, these courageous heroes of the Revolutionary War made many sacrifices to defend the principles of liberty and found the constitutional republic we hold most dear; and

WHEREAS, the erection of markers for these soldiers' graves pays proper tribute to their memory and demonstrates the greatest respect for the cause of freedom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the James Madison Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution upon its upcoming dedication ceremony to mark the graves of Revolutionary War veterans buried at Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Maury County and thank the members of the chapter for their patriotism and public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.